

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

DRC-01 NEA-10 /107 W

----- 020239

R 060832Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9943

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 6035

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS, JA

SUBJECT: KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE

REF: SEOUL 5933

1. OPPOSITION NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESIDENT
YU CHIN-SAN TOLD REPORTERS SEPTEMBER 6 THAT HE DOUBTED
THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG KIDNAPPING COULD HAVE BEEN
ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF A REGIME IN
POWER. YU'S COMMENT CAME IN THE CONTEXT OF A PRESS
CONFERENCE THE MAIN POINT OF WHICH WAS OPPOSITION
DETERMINATION TO PRESS FOR "POLITICAL REFORMATION"
IN FORTHCOMING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION.

2. OTHER PRESS COVERAGE OF KIM CASE IN PAST TWO
DAYS HAS BEEN LIMITED TO VERY BRIEF AND HIGHLY
NEBULOUS REPORTS FROM TOKYO. EXAMPLES ARE SHORT
ITEMS UNDER HEADLINES "AMBASSADOR YI REITERATES THAT
KOREAN OFFICIALS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH KIDNAPPING"
AND "JAPANESE PREMIER WARNS AGAINST DAMAGING
FRIENDLY RELATIONS". LATTER ARTICLE REPORTS
THAT PRIME MINISTER TANAKA AFFIRMED RIGHT OF ROK
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EMBASSY TO CLAIM DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

3. EMBASSY FSL WAS TOLD BY A FRIEND ON THE STAFF OF NHK IN SEOUL SEPTEMBER 5 THAT JAPANESE POLICE HAVE POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED A FIRST SECRETARY AT THE KOREAN EMBASSY IN TOKYO AS INVOLVED IN THE KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE. HE ALSO WAS TOLD THAT JAPANESE AUTHORITIES HAD ASKED TO INTERVIEW THIS MAN BUT WERE TOLD THAT HE HAD LEFT THE COUNTRY. THIS STORY IS WIDELY KNOWN AMONG KOREAN JOURNALISTS, BUT IT HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED IN MEDIA.

4. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT IS KEEPING TIGHTEST PRESS CONTROLS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPANESE INVESTIGATION OF KIM CASE. HOWEVER, AS INDICATED ABOVE, REASONABLY ACCURATE STORIES ARE CIRCULATING ON JAPANESE INVESTIGATION OF KOREAN EMBASSY OFFICER INVOLVEMENT AND ROKG INVOCATION OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

5. YU CHIN-SAN COMMENT SIGNIFICANT ONLY IN THAT NDP LEADERSHIP APPEARS (BELATEDLY) TO BE MOVING TO A PUBLIC POSITION MORE IN ACCORD WITH ITS "OPPOSITION" STATUS AND GENERAL PUBLIC ATTITUDES ON THE KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE.
HABIB

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